The remaining 7 coal blocks *viz* Chendipada, Chendipada II, Manoharpur, Dip side of Manoharpur and Naini, Mandakini B, and Baintarni West have been allocated to various Central and State public sector enterprises for power generation, under the government company dispensation route.

Jharia action plan

3246. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:
SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is launching a Rs. 10,000 crore Jharia Action Plan to give relief to about four lakh people living in sensitive areas on account of abandoning of Rs. 60,000 crore worth of coal reserves, due to continued threat of underground fire;

(b) if so, whether the relief package would contain adequate provisions for work for the affected workers; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: (a) An Action Plan for dealing with fire, subsidence and rehabilitation in Jharia Coalfield in the command area of Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) has been prepared for a capital outlay of Rs. 6358.45 crore (July, 2006 base). As per the Action Plan 98,314 houses from 595 unstable and uncontrollable sites due to fire and subsidence are to be rehabilitated to safer places. Demographic survey is being carried out to assess the number of affected persons. It is estimated that about 1864 million tonnes of coal has been locked up due to these underground fires.

(b) and (c) The Action Plan does not contain provision of work for the affected persons. However, for the purpose of income generation due to displacement/shifting to the new resettlement site, it is proposed to pay minimum wages per day for 250 days in a year for two years to the head of each family as per minimum wage rate of respective State Governments as per the proposed Resettlement and Rehabilitation (R&R) package.

Coal allocation to thermal power units

3247. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry has reduced the coal allocation to theremal power units in the first quarter during the current financial year; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: (a) and (b) No, Sir. Short term coal allocations to power utilities during April-June, 2008 is 31.771 million tonnes as compared to 31.440 million tonnes during corresponding period of last year. In addition, out of pit head stock lying with some coal companies, CIL has offered one time quantity of 8 million tonnes during April-June, 2008, for stock building purposes, subject to evacuation by Railways and commercial arrangements to be made by power utilities with coal companies. Therefore, the total coal allocation to thermal power plants during April-June, 2008 is more than the corresponding period of previous year.